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CONCLUSIONS

1. The USSR has at present and will probably have through mid-1954 ~~adequate~~ *adequate* ~~own~~ *adequate* military strength a marked superiority in conventional military strength which, in view of the aggressive nature of Soviet objectives and policies, poses a constant and serious threat to the security of the free world.

2. Politically, economically, and militarily the Soviet bloc is *capable of undertaking* ~~in a strong position for sustaining~~ a major war. Its over-all strength and war potential should considerably increase by mid-1954.

a. Despite continued tensions within the Soviet bloc, both the Soviet population and ~~at least~~ the European Satellites are under firm Kremlin control. In the event of war various internal ~~strains~~ *political tensions* might become more acute but they probably would not, ^{short of armed invasion} ~~at least in the early stages~~, be a serious obstacle to Soviet ability to sustain a major war effort.

b. The Soviet economy is already at a high state of war-readiness and its productive capacity is such as to enable the USSR to ~~maintain~~ *undertake* a major war effort. In the event of war, the Soviet economy, unless crippled by a strategic air offensive, could support a substantial increase in war production.

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c. The over-all conventional military strength in being of the Soviet orbit is the greatest in the world today. While the personnel strength of the Soviet bloc forces should increase only moderately through mid-1954, the completion of current programs should materially improve their mobilization potential and combat effectiveness. Soviet atomic capabilities, already substantial, should also materially increase.

3. In view of the high state of war-readiness of the Soviet economy and armed forces, the USSR is at present capable of initiating hostilities against the NATO powers without ~~additional~~ warning. It now has the capability of simultaneously conducting a series of land campaigns against Western Europe and the Middle East, as well as air ~~submarine attacks~~ and ~~sea operations~~ against the UK, the US and Canada, and NATO sea communications. By mid-1954 growing Soviet military and economic strength, particularly in atomic weapons, should materially enhance Soviet ability to conduct these operations.

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